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OLC 69-0776

11 September 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Mr. Garner J. Cline, Counsel for
the House Immigration Subcommittee

1. At his suggestion, I met with Mr. Garner J. Cline, Counsel for the House Immigration Subcommittee today. This was a followup to our briefing of Mr. Cline and Representative Clark McGregor (R., Minn.) prior to their departure on a trip which included visits to Czechoslovakia and Poland. We had indicated at that time that we would be interested in their observations and impressions on the trip.
2. After he left the U.S., Mr. Cline changed his personal itinerary so that he could be in Prague on the anniversary of the Soviet invasion. He went there on the 21st of August and remained until the 25th returning to Prague with Representative McGregor on the 5th of September. Mr. Cline described the attitude of the Czech people whom he saw and talked with as one of dejection and apathy. While they appeared to feel that there is no hope that the situation will improve, they are quite open in their passive hostility towards the Soviets. He said even little children on the streets described Russians as being "thick necked and empty headed."
3. When we saw Mr. Cline prior to his departure he said he had hoped to see Dr. Frantisek Kriegel in Prague. He said today he was unable to make contact with him, although Kriegel had been given a specific invitation to a reception given by Cline in Prague. Cline did talk to Professor Viktor Knapp however and he thinks Knapp's status in the weeks and months ahead will be a good indication of conditions in Czechoslovakia. He said Knapp was the chairman of a "Legal Committee" in Prague. Professor Knapp told Mr. Cline that the

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constitutional court which had been authorized has never been established and Knapp doubts that it ever will be. He also told Cline that a new law was passed on the 22nd of August which authorized the government to pickup persons for offenses committed against the state.

4. Mr. Cline contrasted the Poles from the Czechs. He said while the Czechs are dejected, they have not lost their national pride and their will to resist the Soviets in a passive form. The Poles on the other hand were described by Cline as nothing more than "whores" for the Soviets. Cline found this particularly distressing and upsetting in view of the traditionally strong nationalism of the Polish people. Cline had a particular dislike for Ryszard Frackiewicz who he said would soon become the number two man in the Polish Embassy.

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Deputy Legislative Counsel

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